



March 14, 2016

Dear Sen. Eric Coleman, Rep. William Tong, and members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

The Connecticut Lodging Association strongly opposes the details in **Bill No. 5621, An Act Concerning Human Trafficking**, due to the stipulations to be enforced on the lodging industry.

The lodging industry supports awareness of this serious national and international issue. The Connecticut Lodging Association along with the partnership of the American Hotel and Lodging Association supports Human Trafficking education efforts through promotion of the Department of Homeland Security anti-human trafficking Blue Campaign, as well as industry awareness campaigns/educational tools.

The industry recognizes human trafficking - modern day slavery - is not just a problem in developing nations; estimates show that thousands of men, women, and children are trafficked in the United States each year primarily for sexual or labor exploitation. Trafficking networks often rely on legitimate businesses to sustain their operations and infrastructure.

The lodging industry believes education is important to stop human-trafficking, and the lodging industry is a key ally in anti-human trafficking efforts. Though Bill No. 5621 does not unify the efforts but isolates the industry. Please consider a compromise to move forward in a strong anti-human trafficking campaign that focuses on the nature of the issue not the regulation of an industry used in the process.

Thank you for your time, effort and your support for a better Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Victor Antico Jr.  
President  
Connecticut Lodging Association